

Documents on Diplomacy: Exercises

Federalist Wisdom to "Spin"

What modern day "sound bites" can you create to restate these words of wisdom from John Jay?

1. "But the safety of the people of America against dangers from FOREIGN force depends not only on their forbearing to give just causes of war to other nations, but also on their placing and continuing themselves in such a situation as not to INVITE hostility or insult. . . ." [*Federalist No. 4*]
2. "The extension of our own commerce in our own vessels cannot give pleasure to any nations who possess territories on or near this continent. . . ." [*Federalist No. 4*]
3. "As the safety of the whole is the interest of the whole, and cannot be provided for without government, either one or more or many, let us inquire whether one good government is not, relative to the object in question, more competent than nay other given number whatever." [*Federalist No. 4*]
4. "Leave America divided into thirteen or, if you please, into three or four independent governments—what armies could they raise and pay—what fleets could they ever hope to have? If one was attacked would the others fly to its succor, and spend their blood and money in its defense?" [*Federalist No. 4*]
5. "If they see that our national government is efficient and well administered, our trade prudently regulated, our militia properly organized and disciplined, our resources and finances discreetly managed, our credit re-established, our people free, contented, and united, they will be much more disposed to cultivate our friendship than provoke our resentment." [*Federalist No. 4*]
6. "The power of making treaties is an important one, especially as it relates to war, peace, and commerce; and it should not be delegated but in such a mode, and with such precautions, as will afford the highest security that it will be exercised by men the best qualified for the purpose. . . ." [*Federalist No. 64*]
7. "The select assemblies. . . will in general be composed of the most enlightened and respectable citizens, there is reason to presume that their attention and their voices will be directed to those men only who have become the most distinguished by their abilities and virtue, and in whom the people perceive just ground for confidence." [*Federalist No. 64*]
8. ". . . the high importance of it (business) in national affairs has not yet become sufficiently impressed on the public mind." [*Federalist No. 64*]
9. ". . . affairs of trade and navigation should be regulated by a system cautiously formed and steadily pursued; and that both our treaties and our laws should correspond with and be made to promote it." [*Federalist No. 64*]
10. "The loss of a battle, the death of a prince, the removal of a minister, or other circumstances intervening to change the present posture and aspect of affairs, may turn the most favorable tide into a course opposite to our wishes." [*Federalist No. 64*]
11. "Thus we see that the Constitution provides that our negotiations for treaties shall have every advantage which can be derived from talents, information, integrity, and deliberate investigations, on the one hand, and from secrecy and dispatch on the other" [*Federalist No. 64*]